

REMARKS

It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, are patentably distinct over the prior art cited by the Examiner, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes to these claims, as presented herein, are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

Claims 16-27 are in the application.

Claims 16 and 21 were objected to a because of the following informalities: the term “and/or” is ambiguous. Claims 16 and 21 have been amended to remove any ambiguity and withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 16-17, 20-22 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over CASK (Japan Patent JP-11149434, English Abstract and Japanese Patent Drawing, hereinafter “CASK”) and in view of Maquaire et al. (U.S. Publication 2002/107049, hereinafter “Maquaire”).

Independent claim 16, as amended herein, recites in part as follows:

“...wherein said electronic mail sender information is automatically stored if said electronic mail sender information is sent from an unknown electronic mail sender.”

It is respectfully submitted that the applied combination of Cask and Maquaire does not disclose the above-recited feature. Accordingly, amended independent claim 16 is believed to be distinguishable from the applied combination of Cask and Maquaire.

For reasons similar or somewhat similar to those described above with regard to independent claim 16, amended independent claim 21 is believed to be distinguishable from the applied combination of Cask and Maquaire.

Claims 17, 20, 22, and 25 depend from one of claims 16 and 21, and, due to such dependency, are believed to be distinguishable from the applied combination of Cask and Maquaire.

Claims 18 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being unpatentable over CASK (Japan Patent JP-11149434, English Abstract and Japanese Patent Drawing, hereinafter “CASK”) in view of Maquaire et al. (U.S. Publication 2002/107049, hereinafter “Maquaire”) as applied to claims 18 and 21 above, and further in view of Toyoda (U.S. Patent No. 6,441,916).

Claims 18 and 23 depend from one of claims 16 and 21, and, due to such dependency, are believed to be distinguishable from the applied combination of Cask and Maquaire. The Examiner does not appear have relied on Toyoda to overcome the above-described deficiencies of the Cask and Maquaire combination. Accordingly, claims 18 and 23 are believed to be distinguishable from the applied combination of Cask, Maquaire, and Toyoda.

Claims 26 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being unpatentable over CASK (Japan Patent JP-11149434, English Abstract and Japanese Patent Drawing, hereinafter “CASK”) in view of Maquaire et al. (U.S. Publication 2002/107049, hereinafter “Maquaire”) as applied to claims 16 and 21 above, and further in view of Hunter et al. (U.S. Publication 2002/0111912, hereinafter “Hunter”).

Claims 26 and 27 depend from one of claims 16 and 21, and, due to such dependency, are believed to be distinguishable from the applied combination of Cask and Maquaire. The Examiner does not appear have relied on Hunter to overcome the above-described deficiencies of

the Cask and Maquaire combination. Accordingly, claims 26 and 27 are believed to be distinguishable from the applied combination of Cask, Maquaire, and Hunter.

In the event that the Examiner disagrees with any of the foregoing comments concerning the disclosures in the cited prior art, it is requested that the Examiner indicate where in the reference or references, there is the bases for a contrary view.

In view of the foregoing, entry of this amendment and these remarks and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 16-18, 20-23, and 25 and the allowance of this application with claims 16-18, 20-23, and 25 are respectfully requested.

Please charge any fees incurred by reason of this response and not paid herewith to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,
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